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W.A. Fruitgrowers' Conference

Science in Horticulture

N.S.W. Apple Industry

Tasmanian News and Notes

Vegetable Culture

N.Z. Growers Confer

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Tasmanian News and Notes

PEARS PROMISE WELL, APPLES GOOD, BUT NOT SO HEAVY AS LAST SEASON — SEASONABLE SPRAYING — A.W.U. CLAIMS — GOOD PROPECTS FOR BERRY FRUITS.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Hobart (23/9/44).

DURING THE PAST MONTH weather conditions in the northern fruitgrowing areas have been favourable for orchard work. Green tip spray is on, and next week Apples will be out far enough for the pink spray, except for the late blossoming varieties. Pears, on the average, are promising well, and Apples, though not up to last year's blossoming, are quite good on most varieties, speaking generally. Spring ploughing is well in hand.

Shipments of Apples are still going forward to mainland markets from the Tamar.

In the southern districts weather conditions have not been all that could be desired. Snow fell on the low hills on September 17th, which is later than usual, and there have been several frosts since, and as the Pears are now in blossom, it may have a detrimental effect on the setting.

Apples blossomed irregularly in many orchards, probably due to late picking. Granny Smiths, in many places, are blossoming light, but Democrats rather heavily, other varieties seem variable; some Alfristons are blossoming heavily.

Pears will soon require their calyx spray, and Apples (earlier blossomers) will have reached that stage in about 14 days.

Most orchards are ploughed. Growers, as a rule, like to get the leaves covered before the trees come out into blossom, as this is a help in the control of Black Spot. Lime Sulphur in varying strengths is the usual pink spray.

Fertilisers are still in short supply, and the general health of the trees is impaired in consequence. After last year's record crop, they need a bit extra. I notice several patches of uneconomic trees are being grubbed, and the land put to other uses.

The various factories are still getting suitable fruit from the later districts, but this will not last much longer. There were a good many complaints by growers this year at the light weights allowed by certain factories. In many cases only a few boxes are weighed out of a load, and an average struck. This method, on the whole, is not satisfactory.

Box material is hard to get, and the position is getting worse.

I hear several Tasmanian growers have been served with claims for an award of the basic wage plus margins. The case comes before the Arbitration Court in the near future, I am told. Under Tasmanian conditions, the margins would be unworkable, as an orchard hand on the average small orchard has to do anything required to be done, and is often at several different jobs in one day, each with a different margin. Under our conditions, a flat rate for an efficient man is the only workable plan.

The berry fruits that I have seen are looking very well, and are being well cared for, as many growers have Italian P.O.W.'s who seem to take to that kind of work. Picking is the trouble, as it takes only a few men to produce the crop, but many to harvest it. The area of Potatoes grown under contract is to be increased this season, but apparently the area under flax will be less. Other vegetables for dehydrating will be increased.

POST-WAR MARKETING.

At the last meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board, a resolution carried at an earlier meeting was clarified. That resolution affirmed that the greatest benefit the Federal Government could confer on the industry was the making of favourable agreements with European countries, development of markets in the East, and the provision of sufficient refrigerated shipping.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden) wrote stating he presumed the Board was taking the long view, and that it did not desire to abolish the Apple and Pear Acquisition plan.

Members agreed that this was the position. The abolishing of the Acquisition Scheme had not even been considered.

APPLES AND PEARS.

Acquisition Only in Tasmania and W.A. to Continue in 1945.

That the free marketing of Apples and Pears would continue in the forthcoming season in Vic., S.A., N.S.W. and Queensland, was announced by the Minister for Commerce recently.

:: :: ::

Views in Tasmania.

Seeking Acquisition for Four Years After the War.

The Tasmanian Producers' Organisation recently carried a resolution recommending continuation of Apple and Pear Acquisition for at least four years after the war.

In reply the Minister for Commerce stated that as legal authority for the acquisition scheme ceased with the cessation of hostilities, and as the people had rejected the Commonwealth proposals for an alteration of the Constitution, the fate of the Apple and Pear Acquisition in Tasmania required careful examination.

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October 5th, 1944

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

THE WAR SITUATION.

The news from all the fronts continues to be satisfactory, though our leaders now state it may be 1945 before Germany is crushingly defeated.

Mr. Churchill has revealed that the British Navy is on the way to intensify the campaign against Japan.

The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin, recently announced that 45,000 men were to be released from the Services to meet the deficiency in high priority industries, primary and secondary.

The Second Victory Loan has been launched. Citizens should need no urging to support the loan to the fullest extent possible. It is both a privilege and a duty to subscribe generously.

WAR FACTS IN BRIEF.

Britain's war expenditure is being maintained at the rate of £13,250,000 a day.

War-time food exports from Australia to the end of 1943 totalled £240,000,000 in value. Approximately half went to Britain, and other supplies to the South-west and South Pacific and India.

The Australian Women's Army Service has expanded rapidly. At March 31 last its strength was 19,789 personnel.

Under reciprocal lend-lease, Australia and New Zealand are now supplying 95 per cent. of all food needed for United States troops in the South and South-West Pacific.

Australia's total war expenditure in the financial year just ended was £545,000,000.

Estimated egg production in Australia for 1943-44 is 87,100,000 dozen. Requirements for 1944 are 128,000,000.

War-time "Victory" gardens in Canada produced approximately 115,000,000 lb. of vegetables in 1943 in urban centres with a population of 1,000 or more.

Men released from Australia's Army have gone mainly into food production, 61.2 per cent. having entered rural industries and food-processing factories.

OBITUARY.

Late Frank Simper.

Mr. Frank Simper, well-known fruit merchant and exporter, of Fremantle, died in a private hospital at Subiaco, on Sept. 21, 1944, at the age of 64 years. He was the youngest son of the late Charles Simper, a mixed farmer and orchardist of Mt. Barker, South Australia. He came to West Australia 43 years ago, and joined his brother, to form the firm of H. J. and F. Simper, fruit and produce merchants, of Fremantle and Perth. Mr. Simper played a prominent part in the fruit industry in Western Australia. The firm opened up the export trade from W.A. to the United Kingdom, Continent and Far Eastern countries. Always interested in fruit growing, he gave valuable assistance to growers to overcome cool storage problems and other difficulties associated with the industry. He was a member of the W.A. Fruit Shippers' Committee since its inception, and the shippers' representative on the Apple and Pear Council for many years: he was also an active member of the Market Gardeners' Assn., and helped to establish the market garden industry in the Spearwood district. He was Past President of the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, and retired from that position only a few weeks ago because of ill health. Other firms with which the deceased was associated included Messrs. Scanlan and Simper, Ltd. and the Safety Box Factory Ltd.

The late Mr. Simper was a prominent "A" Grade rifle shot, a former captain and foundation member of the Fremantle Rifle Club.

His remains were interred in the Fremantle cemetery in the presence of a large attendance of citizens and sporting organisations from various parts of the State. He is survived by his widow and two sons.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Geo. W. Peart, Goodman's Nurseries, Bairnsdale, has been re-elected President of the Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association of Victoria. Mr. Peart has held this position on previous occasions, and appreciation has been expressed for his services.

The Director of Marketing, Queensland Dept. of Agriculture (Mr. H. S. Hunter), has been appointed a member of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing until August, 1946.

Dr. H. J. Hynes was recently appointed acting chief of the N.S.W. Combined Divisions of Marketing and Agricultural Economics. Previously these were separate Departments. Dr. Hynes was formerly Chief Biologist of the Department of Agriculture.

"Science, now so largely perverted to destruction, must raise its glittering shield not only over the children, but over the mothers, not only over the family, but over the home." — Mr. Churchill.

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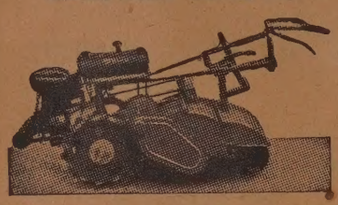

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W.A. FRUITGROWERS' CONFERENCE.

Continuance of Acquisition Requested and Higher Compensation—250,000 Bushels of Apples Processed—No Black Spot in W.A.—Higher Orchard Priorities Sought—Fruit Case Problems.

CONTINUANCE OF ACQUISITION of Apples and Pears until normal exports are resumed, was requested at the Annual Conference of the W.A. Fruitgrowers' Association held at Perth on September 21st and 22nd. Mr. J. McN. Martin presided over an attendance of about 60 delegates. The Apple and Pear Marketing Board was represented by its Chairman (Mr. J. B. Mills), and Deputy Chairman (Mr. H. W. Soothill).

In presenting the Annual Report the Secretary (Mr. B. Hickling) said that the drought had reduced the 1944 potential crop by about 30 per cent. The increase in cool storage facilities was of value. The processing plants had turned out 390 tons of dried Apples, 233 tons of solid pack (pie) Apples, and 80,000 gallons of Apple juice, using altogether about 250,000 bushels of Apples.

As there was no sign of Black Spot it could be assumed this disease had been eradicated.

The Export Trade.

A resolution was carried requesting a continuance of Apple and Pear Acquisition in 1945, and until normal exports overseas were resumed. Further, that the Federal Government be asked to amend the Apple and Pear Organisation Act (No. 58, 1938) to reconstitute the Apple and Pear Board, making the appointment of members subject to selection by the Minister for Agriculture, from a panel of names submitted by the Association, the appointment of Advisory Boards and Committees to be made from a panel of names submitted by the grower organisation concerned.

Payments to Growers.

Delegates stated that Apple and Pear growers were not receiving prices in keeping with those paid for other primary produce, and it was decided to request an increase of not less than 1/- per case on all fruit delivered for the 1945 season, and 6d. per case for undelivered fruit.

Cases.

Delegates discussed the difficulty of securing cases; a special case cutting mill near Kalamunda was suggested: it was decided to ask millers to cut cases strictly according to specifications, as some of the shooks received were irregular.

Proposals were made for processing factories to supply cases for filling: or if growers' cases were used, growers to be paid a cooperage fee of 1d. for filling. Mr. G. Parke (Chairman of the State Advisory Committee) said that the obligation of supplying cases was on the grower; consideration was being given, however, to the setting up of a central case authority, and for a rate to be charged for fillings. The matter was referred to the incoming committee.

Resolutions requesting the exclusion of Bartlett Pears and early varieties of Apples from the acquisition scheme were lost.

Conference carried resolutions requesting adequate labor for harvesting and handling the 1944-45 crop; that orchard priorities be raised; that manpower be released for the manufacture of galvanised rabbit netting; that in the event of future outbreaks of Black Spot the compensation of one-third the loss of fruit damaged by spray is insufficient, and that higher compensation be paid.

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Bees improve both quality and quantity of fruit, states Mr. H. Graham Smith, Apiary Instructor, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture. Apples, in particular, are benefited by the pollination service rendered by bees.

One colony of bees per acre of fruit trees was deemed necessary. A permanent supply of water should be handy.

CROP REPORTS

1945 APPLE CROPS WILL BE LIGHTER THAN LAST SEASON.

PRICE CONTROL SYSTEM CRITICISED.

(By Our Travelling Correspondent.)

Following the heavy crops of Apples in Tasmania and Victoria last season, it is now certain that the 1945 crops will be much lighter. Pears may be medium to heavy in Victoria.

In Tasmania last season there was a record crop of over 8,000,000 bushels. Western Australia looked like having a heavy crop, but the drought heavily reduced the crop, and doubtless affected bud formation for the 1945 season.

Judging by present appearances, the Apple crop next season may be between 9½ and 10 million bushels, of which more than half will be in Tasmania.

Apart from the Apples to be shipped to the mainland from Tasmania, it should be reasonably possible for the balance to be used in processing.

The developments in processing Apples in Tasmania have been substantial. The products include dried and solid pack (pie) Apples, Apple sauce, Apple butter and Apple juice. The bulk of this production is for the services. Yet there is a substantial civilian demand as yet unfilled.

The major problems of processing are plant, machinery and manpower.

Taking the long view, it would seem that the processing of Apples is an industry of permanent economic value.

Moving round among growers, one hears general criticism of the price-fixing regulations. Apples are in plentiful supply; why is price fixing necessary? The announcement of ceiling prices (especially at predetermined rates and unrelated to the stock position) creates a false estimate of values in the public mind.

A check among retail shops in Melbourne suburbs recently revealed that ceiling prices were being charged, but growers state they are not getting ceiling prices or anything like them for the bulk of the fruit.

It is freely stated that shopkeepers are buying just a few cases at ceiling prices and the rest of the supplies at much lower prices; the fruit is mixed, with no satisfaction to the growers or the public. It probably suits retailers, with their limited staffs, to deal only with some of the higher-priced lines. Certainly smaller sized Jonathans and varieties not well known to the public are being unloaded slowly at prices from 4/- per case upwards.

VICTORIA.

Croydon District.—The Apple crop next season will be light. Indications at present favour a big crop of Pears and stone fruits.

Pakenham Upper (21/9/'44).

Prospects throughout this district are fair, and better than might have been expected after the heavy crop and severe drought conditions of last summer. The blooming will be patchy in most orchards, some trees heavy, others almost a blank. It remains to be seen whether the ordeal through which the trees passed during the first two months of the year will affect the setting.

Pruning is completed, and growers who use Bordeaux are applying the green-tip spray. August was abnormally dry, being the driest August on record, but during September we had good rains.

Pears are now in bloom, with no sign of thrips, and Apples should also be safe, after the dry winter experienced.—W. H. Carne.

Harcourt (29/9/44).—After a prolific season, when Harcourt had a heavy fruit crop the season is drawing to a close. Fruit sheds and cool stores were filled to capacity. Despite manpower shortage and other difficulties, growers managed to perform most of the work, but it meant long hours.

Pear crops were medium; special Pear chambers were provided at the cool store, and the high prices ruling made them very profitable.

Cases were a great problem, and despite the heavy output by the Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Saw Mill, thousands of shooks had to be purchased from other mills. The Harcourt Fruit Supply and Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Association, despite shortages, have managed to meet the orchardists' requirements.

The Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Association, with their saw mill employees and their fruit packing staff of 83 employees, have been kept busy supplying cases and packing their own growers' fruit and also for the Harcourt Orchardists' Co., when thousands of cases were sent to the inter-State markets weekly.

Coming Season's Prospects.

Athough too early to forecast the coming season's prospects, fairly heavy stone and Pear crops are expected; Apples, medium.

All orchard work is well on the way. Spraying for fungus diseases and, owing to the dry season, ploughing has been delayed. The irrigation problem is causing a little anxiety, as only 12 inches of rain have fallen, compared with the average rainfall of 24 inches. Unless heavy rain falls to fill the catchment areas, in all probability irrigation water from the Coliban system will be given to growers in limited quantity. Light rain has fallen from time to time, but not sufficient for a run-off.

Quantong.—Mr. S. Jost, Quantong Fruitgrowers, reports as follows, under date, September 21st:—

Seasonal Prospects.—Frosts have badly hit most varieties of Apricots, and to a lesser extent some varieties of Peaches and Plums.

Tomato and vegetable planting is held up to a large extent, and without rain some growers will not bother planting at all.

Owing to severe lack of water in storages, this settlement will be fortunate if it manages to receive three good irrigations for the season, and has already had one of these.

There is an acute shortage of feed for stock, and the demand for chaff exceeds by far, the limited supplies.

Most wheat crops in this area are about 3 inches in height, with large browned off patches, grass is about one inch high, quite brown in colour, and gradually disintegrating.

There is some hope for some lines in both fruit and vegetables, should we receive three or four inches of steady rain within the next four or five weeks, otherwise the outlook is particularly black.

Later.—This morning's report on severe frost last night. Prunes badly hit.

Crop Prospects.

Portland (26/9/44).—So far, prospects are from good and upwards. Trees which had big crops last season will be light this season. Generally, I would say there appears to be about 60 per cent. of a big crop. Have had fair rain. Everybody is behind with their work, owing to manpower shortage.

Apples in local store have never kept better; the loss is not worth talking about, the best keeping in the history of this store.—E. W. Hedditch, Gorae, via Portland.

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South Australia: George Wills & Co. Ltd., Gilbert House, Gilbert Place, Adelaide.
Western Australia: Gibbs, Bright & Co., 179 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Works: PRAHRAN GROVE, ELSTERNWICK, VICTORIA — LF 1468

VICTORIA.

Seasonal Horticultural Conditions.

Apples, Pears, Berry and Stone Fruits, Citrus, Vines, Vegetables.

(Report by Dept. of Agriculture.)

Melbourne (October 2, 1944. — Spring ploughing on many orchards has been delayed because the soil is too dry and hard. Spraying of Apples and Pears for black spot control is in progress. Codling moths have commenced emerging in the Goulburn Valley, and Pear growers are being advised to apply the first lead arsenate spray at "petal fall."

Prospects for the coming Pear crop are good, but Apples are showing a rather uneven blossoming, and the set of fruit in some districts may be adversely affected by poor pollination due to the absence of bees. All varieties of stone fruit have blossomed satisfactorily, but the fruit set of Apricots in the Goulburn Valley has been poor. Severe frost damage to Almonds occurred in northern areas, and Apricots suffered in some orchards near Geelong. Plums, Peaches and Apricots in the Horsham district were also damaged.

Many districts are faced with a shortage of irrigation water. Restrictions are already being applied in the Goulburn Valley, and supplies in the Harcourt, Bendigo and Horsham areas are restricted.

An increased area of berry fruit, including Strawberries and Raspberries, has been planted out in the Wandin district.

Citrus.

Harvesting of the Navel Orange crop is almost completed. Some difficulty is expected in harvesting the Valencia crops, due to frost damage, which is not always apparent from external examination. Frost-damaged citrus trees are showing signs of new growth. Fumigation for red scale control is in progress in the Red Cliffs area.

Vines.

Vines are breaking into growth and, so far, only a small amount of frost damage has occurred. Growers in recognised "frost pockets" have pruned late in order to delay bud burst. Vine growers will have to apply early sprays for the already active light brown Apple moth.

Vegetables.

Tomatoes are being planted out in northern irrigated areas, and plantings will continue until November. Many early plantings were damaged by frost and will have to be replanted. Northern-grown Lettuce and green Peas are being harvested. Carrot roots planted for seed production are growing well in the Mildura area. Dusting has been necessary to control aphis on this crop. Pea crops on the Bellarine Peninsula are growing well, and crops of vegetable seeds in this area are also satisfactory.

Dry conditions prevailed in East Gippsland, but soil moisture is still fairly satisfactory. Some red beet crops were sown, but, because of the danger of virus infection, Carrot crops will not be sown until November. Deliveries of Swede Turnips, Carrots and Cabbages were made during the month.

Harvesting of last season's vegetable crops in the Western District is practically completed. Although moderate rains have been recorded throughout the district, further falls are required. Onion crops are healthy, a few crops of Beet and Carrots have been sown, and some early-sown Peas are in flower. Carrots planted for seed are well established.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Young (21/9/44).—Mr. S. A. Thornell, District Fruit Inspector, states that a very severe frost on September 9th damaged a portion of the Cherry, Apricot, Nectarine and Almond crops. Approximately 80 per cent. of damage was in low lying areas. Orchards on higher ground escaped injury.

Crops could now be classed:—

Cherries. Probably 50 per cent. below 1943.

Almonds: Probably 80 per cent. below last season.

Nectarines (Goldmine): 50 per cent. below last season.

Apricots: 90 per cent. below last season.

Apples will likely be light.

Pears are blossoming well and may be normal.

Prunes are blossoming well; no frost injury noticeable at present.

This is one of the driest years on record, only approximately seven inches of rain up to date; normally we have 25 inches per annum. Unless rain falls soon the position will be anything but bright.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Orange (25/10/44).—The Cherry crop on the high lands promises to be good; some of the other areas have been hit with frost, and will be on the light side.

Williams' and Packham's Pears, the principal varieties growing, promise a heavy crop.

Apples on the whole will be light, the trees are showing the effects of a heavy crop, and dry weather last season.

Plums are blooming well, and should set a good crop.

It is dry at present, and rain is needed. The rainfall to date is very much below the average.—W. E. West.

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Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

DROUGHTY CONDITIONS CAUSE CONCERN — COMING FRUIT CROP PROSPECTS — TOMATO GROWERS ACTIVE — REGIONAL BOUNDARIES' CONFERENCE — CONTROL OF ORCHARD PESTS AND DISEASES — AFFORESTATION AND PREVENTION OF SILTATION.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Mooroopna, 30/9/44.—Drought conditions still continue in all northern Victoria, and owing to the dryness of the soil, all orchardists are busy irrigating. It is probably the first time in history that the orchards throughout the Valley have had to be irrigated in September.

Great concern is now felt over the water supply. As there are not sufficient supplies available to see the season through, growers have been advised that no excess sales of water over and above 90 per cent. of their water right will be delivered. An early break in the weather would somewhat ease the situation.

Fruit Prospects.

Apricots have set somewhat patchily, and only a medium crop can be expected. Peaches appear to be setting satisfactorily, while all varieties of Pears are now in full bloom, and looking particularly well: there should be a good crop.

The first spraying for the season for codling moth will commence next week. The first spraying for Packhams and Josephine Pears should be completed by October 4th, and for W.B.C. Pears by October 11th.

Tomato Growers.

The executive of the Shepparton Tomato Growers' Association has had a busy time. Representatives visited Manpower authorities in Melbourne on August 12th, and although they were unable to get any definite guarantee of labor, they returned with an assurance that everything possible was being done, and that the authorities felt sure the crop would be picked.

The proposed contract between growers and canners had also been received, and is being dealt with thoroughly.

The Executive has been assured that the post-war position is receiving due attention.

Regional Boundaries' Conference.

80 Delegates Visit Shepparton.

Representatives of 19 out of 21 municipalities in the Goulburn and Upper Goulburn areas met in Shepparton recently, where an inaugural conference was held with the State Regional Boundaries' Committees. The visitors included the Committee Chairman, Mr. W. J. Jungwirth, Secretary of the Premier's Department, Mr. O. G. Pearson (Surveyor-General), Mr. F. M. Corrigan (Country Roads Board) and Mr. T. A. Lang (Research Engineer of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission).

The primary object of the conference was to hear delegates' views on the suitability of the two proposed regional areas and also to elicit their opinion on the alternative of amalgamating Goulburn with Upper Goulburn.

The Chairman, Mr. Jungwirth, said that regional planning was embodied in three levels of national planning—First, Commonwealth (defence, communications, tariffs, markets, external affairs); Secondly, "State" (planning for the general development, land settlement, agriculture, roads and water supply); Thirdly, "Regional Planning" (for the development of natural resources to the fullest capacity).

The Prime Minister was to confer with State Premiers on the subject of regional boundaries, and to determine on their inter-State relationships and constitutional matters.

Cr. N. W. Fairless (Shepparton) said this area had a great deal in common interest with the Upper Goulburn, as without water from their area Shepparton could not exist. Last year they had produced three million cases of fruit, two million cases of Tomatoes and a large quantity of Carrots, Peas, etc., all of which got into cases fresh and canned.

Fruitgrowers were therefore very interested in afforestation and in everything that prevented the siltation of weirs.

Orchard Pests.

Shepparton Fruitgrowers' Advisory Committee have issued the following bulletin:—

Growers are advised to watch weather conditions closely, and should rainy weather conditions occur before the green tip stage, it would be advisable to spray with Bordeaux mixture.

For W.B.C., Packhams and Winter Nelis Pears 6-4-40 mixture should be used.

Josephines should not be sprayed with this mixture, as they are subject to russeting caused by copper sulphate.

Further spraying can be carried out in combination with the arsenate of lead after the fruit has set if the weather is showery.

Codling moths will probably be emerging about the end of the month.

The butts of Pear, Apple and Quince trees should be scraped, and the bands examined during September and any hibernating grubs destroyed.

In view of the heavy infestation of codling moth last season, it is imperative that this matter receive urgent attention.

TATURA RESEARCH STATION.

Valuable Experiments are Being Conducted.

THE HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH Station at Tatura (Goulburn Valley) is one of the many valued enterprises being conducted by the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

In his annual report for the year ended June 30th, 1944, the officer in charge, Mr. R. S. Harper, says that the year's work was more in the nature of consolidation rather than marked progress in horticultural research. Shortage of manpower and other wartime disabilities were the causes. This station covers 104 acres, and is planted with Peaches, Pears, Apricots, Subterranean Clover, Oats for hay, etc.: there is a nursery, and areas for trials with Tomatoes, Peas, etc.

The experimental work includes plant breeding and selection, observation of the varieties introduced from U.S.A. by Mr. W. Young, root stocks for Pears, irrigation and manurial investigations, Tomato variety trials, etc. It was here that the excellent canning Tomato variety "Tatura Dwarf Globe" was raised.

The potential value of the station is increasing yearly: among the important problems awaiting investigation are those associated with the canned fruit industry.

FRUIT TREE STOCKS.

Acute Shortage.

Included in the recent annual report of the Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association of Victoria is the following:—

Over the past three years the Association has brought under the notice of the authorities concerned the serious position which was developing in fruit tree nurseries owing to the impossibility, through lack of skilled labour, of working up fruit tree stocks to meet future demands.

It is only within the last few months that the authorities have accepted this position and made some belated effort to relieve the position by assisting fruit tree nurserymen to obtain releases of skilled employees from the Services. Whilst this will help the position, further efforts must be made if stocks to meet post-war demands are to be obtained. The position of fruit tree stocks is probably more acute now than it has ever been in the history of the Commonwealth.

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WEST AUSTRALIA: Westralian Farmers Ltd., Wellington St., Perth.

SPRAYING HINTS

Apples and Pears.

For the control of the codling moth the only satisfactory method so far known is that of spraying with arsenate of lead. Thoroughness is essential, especially the calyx spray. The long rod is preferred by many growers to the spray gun. By means of the long rod the operator can direct the spray downwards into the calyx cup. Officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture state that 3 lb. lead arsenate powder, or 6 lb. paste, to 100 gallons of water is sufficient. If it is necessary to combine this spray with lime sulphur for black spot of Apples add a half pound casein spreader or 2 lb. slaked lime to the diluted lime-sulphur before adding the lead arsenate. Do not use this spray in hot weather.

Subsequent sprays should be timed according to moth activity, as revealed by lure pots—jars containing vinegar, Apple juice, waste wine or molasses diluted in water.

For cover sprays, use a half gallon of white oil emulsion to the lead arsenate—but not after December, because of the adherence of the arsenical deposit.

Powdery Mildews Attack Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers.

Powdery mildews attack many vegetables, fruits and flowers, especially in summer and autumn.

The Biological Branch of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture states that plants subject to powdery mildew should be dusted regularly with a dusting sulphur or a mixture of hydrated lime and finely divided sulphur.

Some varieties of plants need special treatment.

Rock Melons and Cucumbers are subject to scald if dusted with sulphur, and should be sprayed instead at weekly intervals with Bordeaux mixture 3-4-40.

Pumpkins and Squashes may be dusted with sulphur.

For powdery mildew of Apples, the affected shoots should be removed and burned during winter pruning.

The following are frequently attacked with powdery mildew—Rockmelon, Cucumber, Marrow, Squash, Cucumber, vines, Apple, Papaw, Rose, Delphinium, Hydrangea, Sweet Pea, Michaelmas Daisy and Verbena.

CARE OF THE SPRAY PUMP.

The present difficulty of replacing a defective spray pump, is an additional reason for giving it all the care and attention possible.

Before putting the engine of a power spray plant away for any lengthy period, all working parts should be wiped down and well swabbed with oil. The outfit should be kept under cover from the weather.

Unless oil sprays are being used (which do not cake around the valves or chambers or corrode the metal), the pump should be rinsed every night on completion of spraying. Care should be taken in doing this first to rinse the tank out and then pump through clean water with the hoses off to give a clear outlet.

The hose also should be rinsed every night by pumping water through it with the nozzles off; if oil has been used soda should be dissolved in the water used for rinsing, a cask of prepared soda solution for this purpose being kept on hand during spraying operations. The operation should be carried out either after the pump has been first thoroughly rinsed, or with a separate small pump.

Care in this way will lengthen the life of a hose to a very appreciable extent. The thorough drying out of the hose when put away has not been found to be necessary; in fact, provided it is from clean water, moisture in the hose is possibly beneficial. Avoid, however, hanging the hose close up to an iron roof or in any hot place. It should be kept covered with bagging or similar material.

TOMATOES SHOULD BE SPRAYED REGULARLY.

As a safeguard against early blight (**Alternaria solani**) and late or Irish blight (**Phytophthora infestans**). states the Biological Branch of the N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture, coastal crops of Tomatoes should be regularly sprayed with Bordeaux mixture 1-1-20. This should be done at 10-14 day intervals during spring and autumn months, and may also be necessary in the summer if the weather is wet or humid. Where nicotine sulphate or lead arsenate is added to the Bordeaux mixture for insect control a strength of 1-1-40 is advised. Colloidal sulphur or wettable sulphur may also be added to Bordeaux mixture to control mites. If summer conditions are dry and hot, it may be advisable to omit the fungicide Bordeaux mixture and apply only sulphur dusts or sprays as recommended by the Chief Entomologist.

Bordeaux mixture has consistently proved in Departmental tests to be superior to other sprays and dusts for the control of Tomato diseases, and in addition is the cheapest to make up.

Growers should not wait until the diseases have appeared in their crops before applying the first spray. It should be remembered that the actual appearance of leaf spots may be days or even weeks after infection has taken place, and that the disease may actually be well established by the time the first symptoms are noted.

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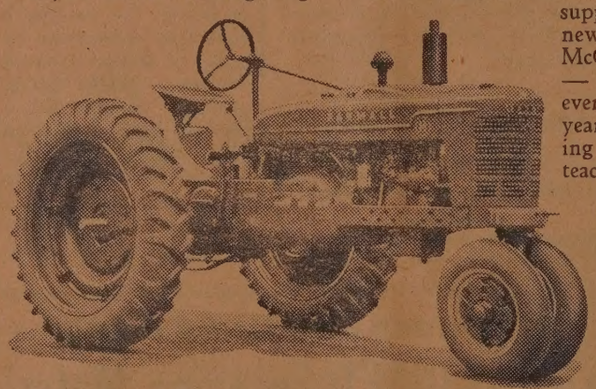

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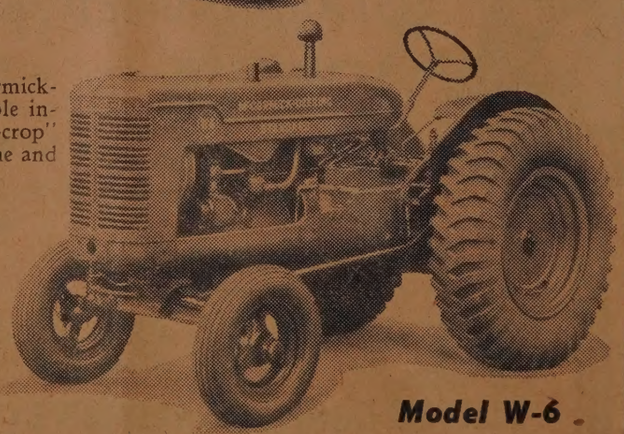

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Fruit Trade in Great Britain

THE PRESENT POSITION AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES. BRITAIN IS "FRUIT-HUNGRY" — BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR AUSTRALASIA WHEN HOSTILITIES CEASE — JUDICIOUS ADVERTISING AND MAINTENANCE OF GRADE STANDARDS — TECHNIQUE OF BRITISH GROWERS IMPROVING — POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DEHYDRATED PRODUCTS.

(Contributed.)

SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR, imports of fruits into Great Britain have been negligible. There have been other uses for the mercantile marine. Early in the struggle the Government decided that as Tomatoes supplied most of the vitamins that are found in citrus fruit, the production of that crop must be greatly increased. Growers have responded well, and have in a commendable spirit accepted the limitations on the production of flowers, Cucumbers, and other luxury crops.

Growers of tall fruit—Apples, Plums, Pears and Cherres, and of small fruit—Black and Red Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries and so on, have, in spite of labour shortage, done their utmost to supply the preserve factories and the public with fruit. In the war years there have been quite good crops, that of 1943 exceptionally so.

In spite of all this wonderful effort, the public demand for fruit is largely unsatisfied. Except in the glut periods, when soft fruit must come on the market quickly, there are queues at the fruit shops. Both wholesale merchants and retail shopkeepers find it necessary to ration supplies. The public regard fruit as essential and are determined to have far more of it than they are getting now, when supplies become available.

It need not be thought that the temporary black-out of Australasian fruit on the home market will necessitate an extensive advertising campaign to re-educate the people. Advertising there must be, as others who have an eye on the large British market will put their publicity matter over. But it will be intimate—concerning their own products. It will not be essential to urge the public to eat more fruit. They are just waiting for that glorious opportunity. The Australasian growers in their advertising must convince the public that it is in their interest to secure Australasian fruit.

In an article of this kind it would be rather superfluous to say that after the war there will be a great shortage of consumer goods, and that the interests which wish to push the sale of these goods will do all in their power to secure favourable allocations of shipping. It is, however, not superfluous to make the suggestion that the commissioners who deal with Government departments should not forget that if Australasian fruit is to reach British markets there must be ships' bottoms in which to carry it over the ocean.

War and British Fruit Industry.

Now it must be relevant to review the effect of the war on British fruit culture. Extensions in acreage have been negligible. The War Agricultural Committees have laid it down that fruit planting is a long-term policy, and that the exigencies of war compel a short term policy. Crops must be grown to feed the population within a relatively short time of sowing or planting. Substantially the only planting has been for replacement. Many acres of worthless fruit trees have been grubbed up.

The technique of the British fruitgrower has improved enormously. He has realised the value of a well-thought-out spraying programme, and is using the pruning knife with increasing judgment. It can safely be said that after the war the standard of British fruit will be higher than ever it was before. Though no reflection can be cast on the quality of pre-war consignments of fruit from Australasia, it should be said that there must be no slipping back, but rather a stepping forward. **Let quality of produce and packing count for more than ever.**

After the war it is to be expected that a goodly acreage of fruit trees will be put down. The Ministry of Agriculture has recently suggested that varieties of Apples for commercial orchards should be reduced to seven, and this suggestion appears to have been favourably received by fruit growers. In any case, the gesture indicates keener organisation. The British fruitgrower is certainly on the alert.

The increased acreage should not perceptibly affect the demand for overseas fruit. There are many mouths to feed in Great Britain, and the standard of life is continually rising. The outlook so far as Australasian fruit is concerned is bright.

To sum up, there will be a huge demand for it in the post-war years if the public are made conscious of its existence by judicious advertising, if shipping can be made available, if the pre-war standards are maintained or improved upon, and if, by means of refrigeration or some other preserving process, the fruit can be landed on to British shores in the fresh condition it enjoyed when it was gathered in Australia or New Zealand.

Possibilities of Dehydration.

A word concerning a special branch of the business. During the war there have been developments in dehydration. The public have not seen much of the products of it, but dehydrated fruit and vegetables have been used by the Forces, and are popular. What the future holds for dehydration as a peace-time process none can at present say, but it would be a wise plan for our Australasian friends to keep themselves abreast of the developments, and come in with the first should dehydrated food become a part of the menu of the future.

Our Australasian friends will be pleased to learn that the very efficient wholesale merchanting organisation which served them so well in pre-war years is still in happy being, and functioning as well as ever it did. The organisation is looking forward to the day when it will again handle the packages of its old friends.

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION.

Ringwood-Doncaster Area.

It had been decided by the Victorian Government to establish a horticultural research station in the Ringwood-Doncaster area at which the problems of the fruit and vegetable growers in the southern part of the State would be investigated. To enable suitable land to be acquired £5,000 has been included in the estimates.

APPLE AND PEAR PRICES.

New Ceiling Prices.

In accordance with the published schedule, ceiling prices for Apples have been increased from October 1st from 23/- to 25/- in Sydney and from 21/- to 23/- in Melbourne.

Ceiling prices for Pears for all capital cities except Brisbane increased from 24/- to 26/- (the maximum price in the Brisbane metropolitan area represents established prices in other centres, plus freight).

The maximum retail prices for October are:—Sydney (Apples and Pears), 9½d. lb.; Brisbane (Apples and Pears), 10d.; other capital cities, Apples, 9d.; Pears, 9½d. lb.

It is pointed out that these prices apply only to highest quality fruit. Apples and Pears of lower quality sell at ruling market rates, and the retail price should be cost into store plus the scheduled margins.

CEILING PRICES FOR APPLES.

Objections in N.S.W.

Strong objection to the system of price fixing for Apples was recently expressed by Mr. W. B. Pascoe, Chairman of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association. The economics of the Apple and Pear industry, he states, are too wide for justice to be done to them by the Prices Branch. The present scale prevented growers in N.S.W., Victoria, South Australia and Queensland from obtaining the true market value for highly specialised production, such as best quality Delicious and Granny Smith Apples.

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Mildura and District Notes

(By A.E.C.)

Fodder Shortage. — Supplies of chaff have been far short of the demand for some weeks past. Even if normal deliveries were being received, the abnormal demand from outback for stock in the dry areas would have created an acute problem.

Under the intense cultivation practices of these irrigation areas, there is little irrigable land available for fodder growing. Fruitgrowers have been appealed to by the War Agricultural Committees to relieve the position as far as possible by growing what they can for their own stock and horses. In most instances, this is limited to Lucerne, growing on headlands and channel banks, and an effort will be necessary to make the best use of such growths.

Frost hazards make it inadvisable to allow green crops of cereals or legumes to remain standing between the vine rows in early spring, as it has been found that the danger is greatly increased thereby.

Summer crops of Maize and Millet may help to relieve the position to a small extent, but in dry seasons the competition of such crops with the rapidly growing vines for the available soil moisture can have ill effects on the fruit crop. It has been suggested, however, that the sowing of Oats or Barley between the rows, as soon as the vine crop is harvested, will relieve the position during next winter, and should have no ill effect on the vines themselves.

Mr. A. G. Allnutt, M.L.A., with the Chairman of the War Agricultural Committee, Mr. Roberts, and officers of the Lands and State Rivers Departments, has examined the possibility of pumping from drainage swamps on to contiguous dry areas, for the production of summer fodder crops. Some hundreds of acres could be supplied with irrigation fairly economically in this way.

Frost Prevention.—Frost warnings were issued in the early morning hours of the 17th and 18th of September, and growers who have heating appliances "lit up" in time to make a good save. Temperatures as low as 25 deg. F. were recorded, and these were lifted above the danger point by the heaters. The Cardross Frost Club (Red Cliffs district) has a good membership, and is well organised. Key men have automatic alarms which warn them when the temperature has fallen low enough. A close watch is then kept until the danger point is definitely reached, when the alarm is broadcast to all members through the telephone exchanges. Pots of crude oil are kept in position amongst the vines, and in a very short time are lighted by means of torches provided for the purpose. In some cases all members of a family are pressed into service to get the heat going in the shortest possible space of time.

The use of heaters is largely confined to recognised frost areas, and not all of these are so equipped.

A peculiarity of the frosts on the days mentioned was that some damage was done on vineyards, usually regarded, because of their location, to be out of the frost "zone." In some instances shoots were scorched near the highest point of the block, the lower section escaping with only similar damage when it would be expected to be more severe there.

The vagaries of frost are well known to most observers, and it is difficult to explain why one half of a trellised vine may be "wiped out" and the other half escape damage, and perhaps neighbouring vines are also untouched. The same thing applies in general in that blocks which have hitherto been immune have been damaged on this occasion.

Fortunately, on many vineyards the sprouting is not sufficiently advanced for serious loss to the crop in general, though there are isolated instances where it was bad enough. As the first irrigation concluded only a few days prior to this visitation, a good proportion of blocks were safeguarded to some extent by very moist soil conditions. Further protection is being provided by a frost prevention special irrigation for those who require it.

Apple Moth Menace.—This pest has greatly increased during the last year or two, and infection of Grape bunches has been very widespread, in some instances being a distinct threat to the crop. The Commonwealth Research Station at Merbein, which specialises in vineyard problems, has been giving close attention to this trouble, having secured the assistance of Mr. T. G. Campbell, Research Officer of the Division of Economic Entomology, on the matter. As an outcome of the investigations made a control plan will be recommended to growers in the hope of considerably reducing the number of bunches affected by the grub.

Vegetable Seed Production.—A fair acreage of Carrot "sets" has been put down this year, and in one small group of growers about 100 acres are developing with great promise. A fair proportion is planted in young Orange groves, and are receiving the best of attention. Preparation is being made for a substantial area of Tomatoes, and Carrots for roots are also receiving some attention. The sprinkler system of irrigation is being used to a considerable extent.

Citrus Fruit.—The harvesting of the winter crop is almost complete, and many growers are turning their attention to the picking of Grapefruit. Early in October a commencement will be made with the packing of Valencias, which are expected to meet with a good reception by the trade.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

THE annual general meeting of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, Incorp., was held at the Institute Building, North Terrace, Adelaide, Friday, September 29th, 1944.

Apologies were received from Mr. H. N. Wicks, Mr. W. Ind, and Hon. John Bice.

The President, Mr. R. Cramond, occupied the chair. After welcoming all in attendance, and explaining that Mr. A. Stuart (Secretary) was absent owing to illness, introduced the Premier, Hon. T. Playford, who had kindly consented to open the meeting.

The Hon. Playford thanked the Chairman for his welcome, and expressed his pleasure at the re-union with the industry. The wastage which had occurred in the assets of the orchards was much more serious than was generally realised. It was necessary, he said, to give much consideration to the rehabilitation of the industry on this score, and it would take time to re-establish the orchards. At the conclusion of the war, strong endeavours would have to be made to recapture the markets held before the war, and besides exploiting the Australian markets to the full, every country in the world which offered scope for trade would have to be explored. This would require intense organisation from all connected with the industry. In the event of lease lend arrangements, and the Atlantic Charter, operating, and there are strong factors working to make it operate, markets can be found for almost unlimited produce. He said that there is no reason why under free export conditions, we should not send four million cases from Australia. The Premier stated that he was always available and willing to do all in his power to assist growers with their various problems. He then declared the meeting open for the transaction of the business.

Mr. W. J. Bishop moved a vote of thanks to the Premier, which was seconded by Mr. A. R. Martin. The motion was carried with acclamation. Both Mr. Bishop and Mr. Martin mentioned the assistance the Premier had given in many phases of the industry.

The President, Mr. Cramond, presenting his annual report, said that the association now totalled more than 1,000 members. He considered that in matters of price fixation, consultation by the Prices Commissioner with the Association would create an atmosphere of confidence. He reported that the Trading Section of the Association had shown further progress, and had considerably assisted the industry in distribution of cases, fertilisers, and general gardening requisites. The turnover had increased by over 50 per cent.

Apple and Pear Section: The Committee had been very active in the face of difficulties. The dry season had affected crops, and much of the fruit was small. Shortages of labour and packing materials restricted export, and some growers had been influenced by the announcement that ceiling prices would continue to increase monthly, which had caused them to hold supplies.

Tomato Section: Tomato growers had been very hard hit by the disastrous frosts, and this would mean a considerable reduction in the total crop figures. In view of the lighter crops, the growers are not entirely satisfied with the prices, as fixed by the Prices Commissioner.

Celery Section: Difficulties have been experienced in freighting, and it has been possible to send only minimum quantities to Sydney. This has resulted in heavier supplies to Melbourne, with consequent lower values on that market. The ceiling prices do not appear practicable. This order came into operation only recently, and it would appear that some more equitable basis is necessary to cover the prices allowed for the different sizes.

Citrus Section: Heavy losses have been experienced both in fruit and trees. The depot for handling factory citrus has this year been established on the Society Selling Floor.

Potato Section: Growers were now quite well organised, and had a strong branch at Woodside. Negotiations were also in progress with growers of Mt. Gambier, and it is possible that a branch will also be formed in that district. Mr. C. J. Pitt has represented this Association in conjunction with Mr. Kentish on the Federal Advisory Potato Committee.

Cherry Section: The season had been fairly satisfactory, but markets were somewhat restricted by the shortage of space to Western Australia.

Almond Section: The Marion Branch was to be congratulated on their enterprise in forming a co-operative society for selling Almonds.

The President then stated that the Association had become a member of the S.A. Chamber of Rural Industries, and it was considered that this move would prove beneficial to members, and several matters of vital importance to fruitgrowers and market gardeners had already been considered.

In closing, he tendered his thanks to all members of the Executive and Branch Representatives who had attended meetings, and to all who had helped in any way to make the year successful.

The Financial Statement was submitted for approval. Mr. Cramond moved the adoption of the statement, which was seconded by Mr. C. L. Winser.

Mr. G. Ragless moved that a copy of the Financial Statement be forwarded to members. Seconded Mr. L. G. Pethick.

The Chairman then introduced and welcomed Dr. Trumble, Waite Professor of Agronomy, who, in his address, dealt with the raw materials which went into plant production, said that all investigations had shown that the value of natural manures lay in the contained mineral content, including the minor elements, and the reason why organic manures were regarded as better than mineral fertilisers, was merely because of the trace elements embodied in them. It was an unfortunte fact, he continued, that in this State the wetter districts were marred by soils of poorer types, but he regarded such poverty as possible of rectification by the addition to the soil of the correct fertilisers.

In moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Trumble, Mr. L. J. Wicks expressed the hope that in the future scientific research might be turned more into the fields of horticulture, as there were vast fields still unexplored.

Mr. L. Winser, in seconding the vote, expressed his thanks, and mentioned the valuable aid given the industry by officers of the Waite Institute, and also the Department of Horticulture.

Carried with acclamation.

Election of Officers: As the number of nominations received constituted the number required, the members named were automatically elected for the 1944-45 financial year:—

President, R. A. Cramond, Esq.; Vice-President, A. R. Martin, Esq.; Committee: Messrs. W. J. Bishop, N. T. Hobbs, W. H. Ind, L. B. Pfeiffer, J. B. Randell, G. H. Schultz, J. Turner, H. N. Wicks, L. J. Wicks, and L. Winser; Immediate Past-President, C. J. Pitt, Esq.

Mr. W. J. Bishop moved that Mr. S. R. Hosking be elected Auditor for a further term. Seconded Mr. Esselbach.

A meeting of the Executive of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, held in the New Market Board Room, Friday, 29th September, 1944.

Present: Messrs. R. A. Cramond (Chairman), J. Turner, A. R. Martin, J. Wye, C. Ragless, C. J. Pitt, G. H. Schultz, W. J. Bishop, A. G. Strickland, C. L. Winser, R. Pritchard, O. Esselbach, A. O. Peterson, E. B. Chamberlain, J. B. Randall, E. Giles, T. B. Robson, E. B. Pfeiffer, L. J. Wicks, W. J. Burdett.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Messrs. L. Pethick, J. D. Yateland, H. N. Wicks, M. Hannaford, S. E. Green.

The Chairman reported that delegates had visited Mount Gambier.

Mr. C. J. Pitt stated that the Mount Gambier Potato growers were considering affiliation with the Association.

Mr. A. R. Martin reported on the activities of the Sub-Committee which had been appointed to prepare a case in conjunction with the Hills Gardeners' Association to be submitted to the Prices Branch. Each section of the industry had prepared their own case, and as far as the growers were concerned, the claim had been submitted.

Peas: Mr. C. J. Pitt moved, W. J. Bishop seconded, "that a Sub-Committee of three be appointed to deal with the matter of preparation of Peas for the market, as outlined in

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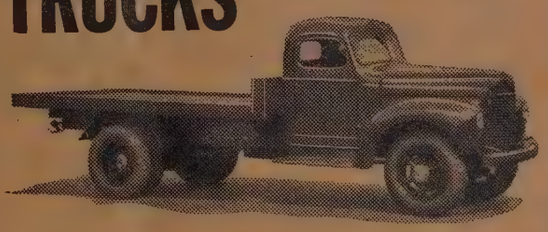

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F. & M.G. Society Ltd.

a letter from the Department of Agriculture. Carried.

Mr. W. J. Bishop moved, C. L. Winser seconded "that the personnel of the committee be R. A. Cramond, G. H. Schultz, and Secretary, with power to co-opt." Carried.

Maintenance Fund: Moved G. H. Schultz, seconded J. Turner, "that the matter of special deduction from income tax to cover depreciation on plant and property be deferred until next meeting." Carried.

Auditor: Moved C. L. Winser, seconded W. J. Bishop, "that the appointment of Auditor be referred to Finance Committee." Carried.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. C. L. Winser reported that a Sub-Committee had been appointed and was working on an advertising campaign. He also reported that the processers were again enquiring for small Apples for factory.

Mr. C. L. Winser moved, Mr. W. J. Bishop seconded, "that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Stuart expressing their wishes for his speedy recovery."

FRUIT AND PRODUCE EXCHANGE
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BRISBANE

Stencils on Application.

APPLE JASSID.

As eggs of the Apple Jassid Fly were recently found in a consignment of fruit trees sent from South Australia to Western Australia, the W.A. Supt. of Horticulture, Mr. H. R. Powell, has issued a warning that trees infested in this way will either be destroyed or returned to the sender.

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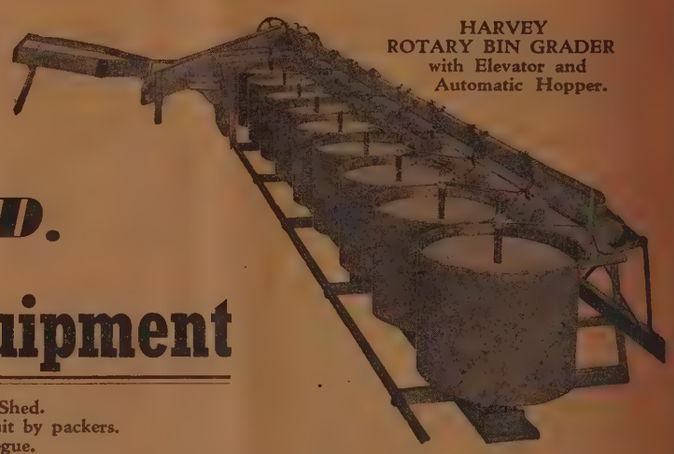

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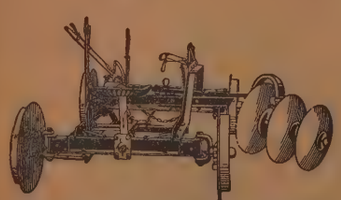

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Cuts out all hand working under citrus trees, and keeps the ground level. Specially designed to work right under the limbs up to the trunks of the Orange and Lemon trees. Will lift limbs loaded with fruit off the ground, cultivating to any predetermined depth, and then gently putting back in position the fruit-bearing limbs without injuring the fruit or fibrous roots. Cuts out all weeds without clogging.

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QUEENSLAND

QUEEENSLAND FRUIT MARKETING.

Acts Extended for Further Five Years.

An Order-in-Council was issued in Queensland in mid-September, under the Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, extending the operations of these acts for a period of five years. as from 1st January, 1945.

Earlier a notice was published notifying the intention to extend these Acts unless a petition was received from 500 growers requesting a poll. No petition having been received, the extension of the Fruit Marketing Acts was gazetted.

The effect is to extend the operations of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing for the period mentioned.

HAIL INSURANCE IN QUEENSLAND.

A hail insurance scheme is in operation in the Stanthorpe district, Queensland. The Board of the Stanthorpe Fruit Co-operative Hail Insurance Fund now proposes to amend its operations to provide a sliding scale so that growers sustaining a heavy loss will be compensated at a higher rate per bushel than those who suffered only slight loss. The C.O.D. is conducting a ballot of growers on this subject.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN QUEENSLAND.

At a recent meeting of the Banana Sectional Group Committee of the Committee of Direction, Major Savage presented an interesting report of his visit to the north. Everywhere there was appreciation for the efficient services of the C.O.D. Banana ripening and cool rooms were to be provided in the new premises at Townsville. Similar extensions were proposed at Cairns, where the C.O.D. owned its own premises. A cooling unit was to be transferred to Bowen.

Some of the growers at Atherton and Mareeba, now growing vegetables, said they would return to previous crop production when vegetables became unpayable. Others were keen to improve cultural methods. There would be heavy vegetable production from the army farms.

Vegetables were plentiful in North Queensland, but improvements were needed in some places in the quality of Bananas, Papaws and Pineapples.

BANANA BUNCHY TOP.

Concern in Queensland.

The seriousness of the Banana bunchy top menace was discussed at a recent meeting of the Banana Sectional Group of the C.O.D., Brisbane. Mr. W. J. Branch presided.

It was stated that unless steps were taken to combat bunchy top on the South Coast of Queensland the position would become very serious this spring. Abandoned areas were responsible in a large measure for spreading the disease. It was suggested that £5,000 be raised for a campaign to be conducted to control the disease. It was finally decided to send a deputation to the Minister for Agriculture seeking his assistance in the eradication of bunchy top in South Coast Banana growing districts.

PROPOSED COOL STORE AT APPLETHORPE.

Enquiries are being made regarding the advisability of adding an ice plant, ice room and Tomato ripening room to the cool store which is proposed to be built at Applethorpe.

PIGS FOR QUEENSLAND.

May be Sent from N.S.W. and Victoria.

An Order in Council has been issued in Queensland under the Diseases in Stock Acts whch will permit the entry into Queensland of pigs from N.S.W. and Victoria which are consigned to an approved piggery. Up till early August, because of the presence of contagious porcine abortion, the introduction of infected or suspected swine from the southern States was prohibited, except when certified free from the disease and when consigned to an abattoir, bacon factory, or the Cannon Hill Saleyards for immediate slaughter.

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The Apple Industry in New South Wales

A REVIEW OF PRODUCTION PROBLEMS.

PRESENT AND POST WAR.

(H. Broadfoot, Chief Fruit Instructor and E. C. Whittaker, Fruit Instructor.)

A BRIEF REVIEW of the districts in N.S.W. in which Apples have been planted on a commercial scale, discloses the great diversities of climate, soil and rainfall that exist. It is apparent, too, from the accompanying table that the production per tree varies greatly from district to district. While in some areas the production of fruit from year to year is highly satisfactory, the yield per tree in others—marginal and sub-marginal areas where large numbers of trees have been planted in the past—is comparatively low, and this is the reason why the average production per tree for the State as a whole is low, and is not a true indication of what our best pome fruit areas are producing.

The figures quoted in the table indicate that there is considerable scope for improvement in the industry generally, particularly in regard to the selection of areas for future planting. **It is for the purpose of stressing the importance of this and other features affecting the production of Apples, that the following notes have been written.**

Originally the Apple was native to the more temperate parts of Europe and Asia, and although during centuries of cultivation and selection we have succeeded in vastly altering the original types, we have not altered to any very marked degree this fruit's preference for its original natural environment, hence it remains still essentially a cool climate fruit.

At one time there existed an idea that almost any kind of soil was good enough for Apple growing. Nothing could be farther from the truth. An Apple orchard, given good conditions, should last almost a lifetime; hence if the trees are to continue to grow and produce abundantly for such a length of time, the soil needs to be far from poor to commence with.

The three essentials of a first-class pome-producing district could be perhaps summed up broadly as follows:—

1.—A climate mild in summer and cool to cold in winter.

2.—An average rainfall of not less than and preferably more than 28 inches per annum, a fair proportion of which should be suitably spread over summer and early autumn.

3.—A reasonably fertile, well-drained and deep soil.

These three essentials go hand in hand, and if one or other is missing in a particular area, then Apple growing in that area becomes more of a gamble than a business.

Let us examine one or two Apple-growing districts from this viewpoint. The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, for instance, has a reasonably good soil, and water is not lacking, but the climate is far from ideal for Apple-growing. Despite the good soil and plenty of water, crops have been far from consistent, although the main variety grown is the Granny Smith, which under reasonably favourable circumstances is one of our most consistent croppers. Although the quality of the M.I.A. Granny Smith is very good, the production per acre is much below the per acre production of trees planted in the more suitable districts, such as Batlow.

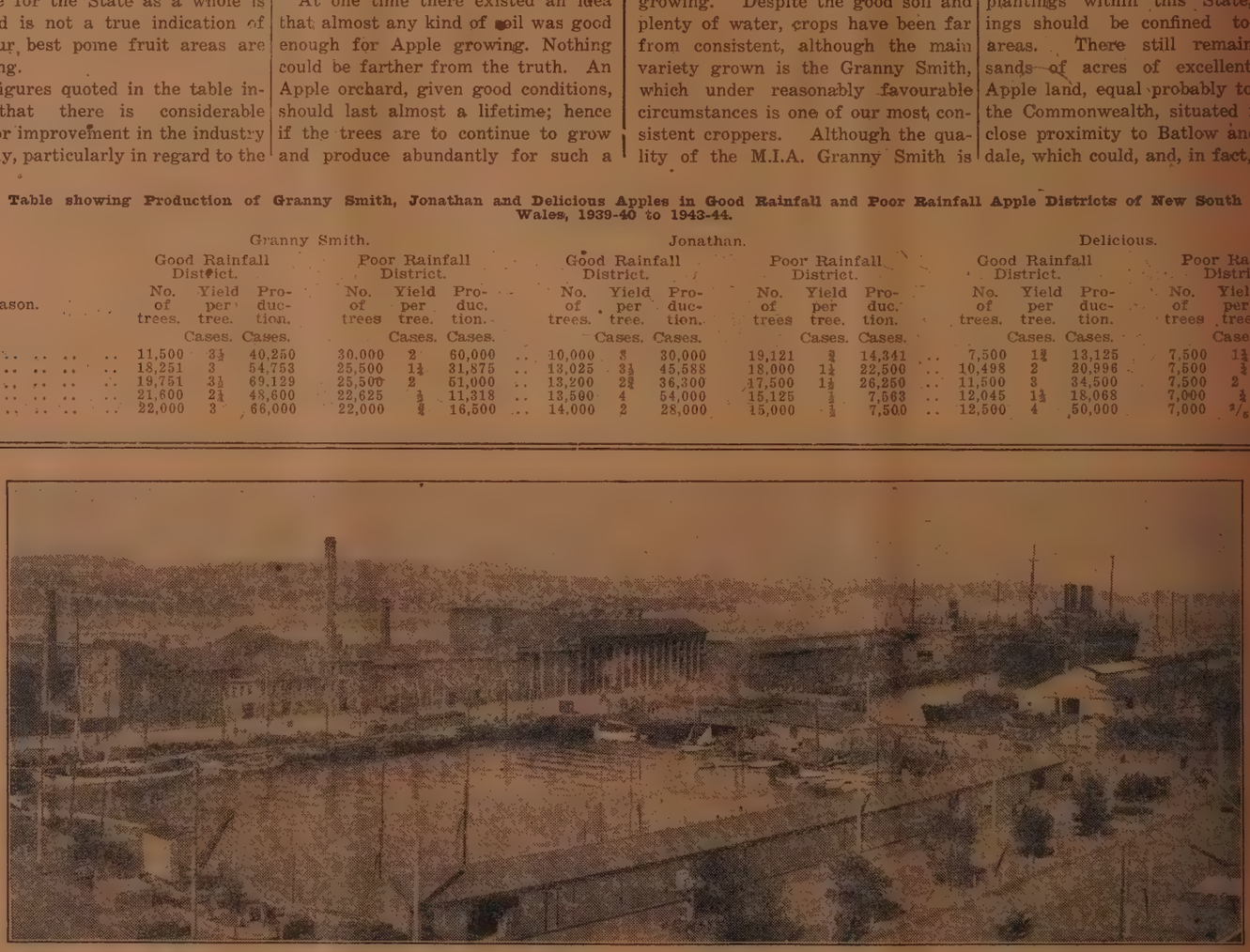
On the other hand, in the Bathurst and Young areas the soil, although perhaps not the best in these districts, is, for all that, passable, and the climate in both instances is more in keeping with the ideal than the M.I.A., but the annual rainfall varies from about 20 inches to 25 inches, which is too low for the production of good average crops.

The simple facts, therefore, speak for themselves. Only three of our major Apple-producing districts comply with all three requirements as set out above, and the fact that these three areas are far and away the most consistent as regards cropping is certainly no mere coincidence.

These districts are Orange, Batlow and Armidale. It is only logical, therefore, to expect that in any future planned expansion of pome plantings within this State, plantings should be confined to proven areas. There still remain thousands of acres of excellent virgin Apple land, equal probably to any in the Commonwealth, situated in or in close proximity to Batlow and Armidale, which could, and, in fact, should,

Table showing Production of Granny Smith, Jonathan and Delicious Apples in Good Rainfall and Poor Rainfall Apple Districts of New South Wales, 1939-40 to 1943-44.

Season.	Granny Smith. Good Rainfall District. No. of trees.	Yield per tree. Cases.	Production. Cases.	Granny Smith. Poor Rainfall District. No. of trees	Yield per tree. Cases.	Production. Cases.	Jonathan. Good Rainfall District. No. of trees.	Yield per tree. Cases.	Production. Cases.	Jonathan. Poor Rainfall District. No. of trees	Yield per tree. Cases.	Production. Cases.	Delicious. Good Rainfall District. No. of trees.	Yield per tree. Cases.	Production. Cases.	Delicious. Poor Rainfall District. No. of trees	Yield per tree. Cases.	Production. Cases.
1939-40	11,500	3½	40,250	30.000	2	60,000	10,000	3	30,000	19,121	¾	14,341	7,500	1¾	13,125	7,500	1¼	9,375
1940-41	18,251	3	54,753	25,500	1¼	31,875	13,025	3½	45,588	18,000	1½	22,500	10,498	2	20,996	7,500	¼	1,875
1941-42	19,751	3½	69,129	25,500	2	51,000	13,200	2¾	36,300	17,500	1½	26,250	11,500	3	34,500	7,500	2	15,000
1942-43	21,600	2¼	48,600	22,625	½	11,318	13,500	4	54,000	15,125	½	7,563	12,045	1½	18,068	7,000	¼	1,750
1943-44	22,000	3	66,000	22,000	¾	16,500	14,000	2	28,000	15,000	½	7,500	12,500	4	50,000	7,000	2/5	2,800



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be used for any future extension of the industry in preference to land in marginal or unproven areas. In the Orange district there still remains some good land suitable for the production of Apples, but the area is not great.

Owing to the geographical position of Orange, Batlow and Armidale, each district is well situated for supplying the Sydney market with Apples. In addition, Orange can supply western, Batlow southern, and Armidale northern towns in New South Wales. Armidale is situated about the same distance from Brisbane as from Sydney by rail, and so is well placed for supplying both of these markets. Better transport facilities between New England and the North Coast would be of incalculable value to Apple growers and other primary producers in the New England area for the marketing of certain produce in this section of the State.

(To be continued.)

COOL STORES, SYDNEY.

Under the authority of the Sydney Municipal Council, work is proceeding on the new cool store in the market buildings (close to the present cool store). This will have a capacity of 50,000 cases, and it is expected that the work will be completed by December in time for the coming season's crop.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES.

Their Contribution to Health in War and Peace.

Summary of a Lecture by Vernon L. S. Charley, B.Sc., Ph.D., before the British Food Education Society.

THE USE OF EXPRESSED FRUIT JUICES for the quenching of thirst or for the treatment of specific disorders, is of comparatively recent introduction.

In past centuries "fruit" drinks were mainly alcoholic.

An early development was the giving of citrus juices to sailors to prevent scurvy.

One of the reasons for the recent changed outlook towards fruit is the very significant change regarding the physiological needs of the people.

The report of the Committee of the League of Nations on the relation of nutrition to health and agriculture, states that "the principal cause of this change in physiological requirements was the reduction in the expenditure of energy brought about (a) by mechanisation of industry and reduction of hours of work, and (b) the rise in the proportion of the population in trade and clerical work."

We tend to consume food for which the body calls by nature of the work it has to do. The dietaries of a large proportion of the population have gradually included more of the lighter foods, such as fruit, dairy and vegetable products, which are all rich in protective essentials, such as vitamins and minerals. These changes were obviously linked up with the phenomenal growth of the pure fruit juice industry in many parts of the world. Other reasons will be dealt with later.

The events of the last two decades are best considered in relation to the three countries where they occurred.

(a) **Germany.** This country has a colossal acreage of nondescript Apple orchards. After the First World War, the Apples were used for cider, concentrated juice and various confectionery purposes. The development of unfermented Apple juice in Switzerland at this time (due to certain technical discoveries which enabled the juices to be stored safely in bulk) became known in Germany, and by a joint effort of Swiss and German technicians, the production of juice was started in the latter country and achieved a startling success—startling on account of the well-known predisposition of the German for beer and hock. Production was centred in about 100 large factories, but over 2,000 units were concerned, varying in size down to small processing units installed singly in villages, where juices could be pressed out from small lots of Apples, the juices then being processed and returned to the owner of the fruit. One pint per head per day fruit juice was officially recommended for consumption. (It is understood that since the war Apple juice production in Germany has practically ceased, the Apples being used for alcohol production for blending with aviation spirit.)

The Swiss production rose to an astonishing extent for a nation of 4 million people, and the Government forced Apples from alcohol plants and cider factories into the mills of the juice makers.

(b) **America.** The production figures are staggering. Previous to 1925, the only preserved juice of any significance was Grape juice. In 1926 Grapefruit juice was introduced, Tomato (counted as a vegetable juice) followed in 1928, Pineapple in 1931, and large scale Orange juice in 1934. The reasons for these developments are given by Tressler, Joslyn and March, include fine flavour, attractive appearance, convenient packaging, dissemination of nutritional information, variety into the diet, dieting and slimming craze, as a means of utilizing surplus and low-grade fruit.

The production programme has led to the establishment of factories sited strategically throughout the fruit-growing States and the equipment and technological developments have gone forward hand in hand with the increased demand. Production of sound fruit juices needs eternal vigilance, the finest grade equipment and scientific control of the highest degree.

The colossal estimated figure of 200,000,000 gallons for 1944 production is a yardstick by which English juice production appears absurdly small.

(c) **England.** The sale of citrus squashes has been a well-known feature of the grocery trade in this country for the greater part of the century. The fruit juices were imported from Mediterranean countries and, more recently, from Palestime, South Africa and America. The wide fields of expansion referred to above in the case of Germany and America have not yet found their counterpart in this country.

In 1932 the Ministry of Agriculture introduced its National Mark scheme and it was found that the growers were loath to undertake a drastic grading of the fruit unless they could be assured of some profitable outlet for the ungradeable sur-

NO VEGETABLE GROWER CAN AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT THIS GREAT LABOUR SAVING MITCHELL SMOOTHING HARROW.

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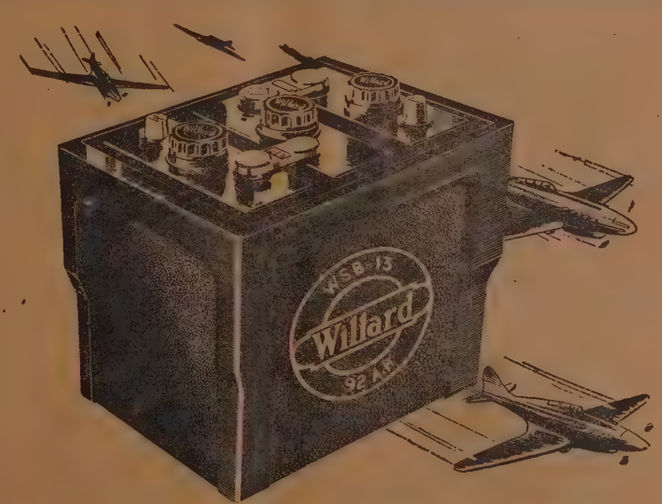

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Too right we do—*at Eveready*. "Oh, yes?"—says the man on the land. "Well, why was I done out of the invasion news? And all our favourite radio programmes, too, *because we couldn't get a new set of batteries at any price?*"

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We're catching up on the terrific pressure of war orders, but we're not stopping for breath. We're continuing flat-out to try and catch up on civilian needs . . . and we know that the civilian battery that is most urgently needed is the radio battery for the man on the land. But, don't forget that even after the batteries leave our factory there may be delays in transport, and that's something over which we have no control. Believe us—we're going flat-out!

EVEREADY

TRADE-MARK

EVEREADY (AUST.) PTY. LTD.

plus. Apple juice was introduced into this country practically simultaneously by Dr. Freund in Cambridgeshire and Dartington Hall Ltd., in Devon. Since that time, expansion has proceeded slowly, but acute variations in the annual crops of Apples have not encouraged further large scale processing. For obvious reasons Apples affected by decomposition, rotting and micro-organism are unsuitable for juice making.

A further development was the introduction in 1936 of pure fruit syrups from English soft fruits, primarily intended for the flavouring of milk shakes. After the usual stormy passage encounted by new products, these National Mark Syrups, as they then were, were accepted by the milk bar industry and a very considerable sale was achieved. **The promotion of the black-current over the head of the citrus fruits with respect to vitamin C**, however, led to the examination of the syrup as a natural source of the vitamin, and the results were so significant that the product, together with a canned black-currant puree, were adopted by the Ministry of Food in 1941 for distribution to young children throughout the country.

But production is still only infinitesimal compared with American standards.

(To be continued.)

SHORTAGE OF CITRUS TREES.

Commenting on the severe shortage of citrus trees, Mr. R. J. Benton, Special Fruit Instructor, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, states that growers are finding it difficult to secure sufficient trees for replacement. Eight large nurseries in N.S.W. have gone out of production, and others have curtailed production. One new nursery has been established, and one has expanded production. Mr. Benton quotes Mr. R. B. Thomas in stating that the annual production is now only 200,000 trees, approximately a third of peak-year production.

Indications are that the quantity available for 1945 planting will be 300,000 trees, and 400,000 for 1946 planting. This will depend upon manpower and fertilizer.

IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENTS.

Fifty Year Programme Envisaged for Murray Valley.

Farseeing plans for irrigation and land settlement were formulated at a conference of the Murray Valley Development League held at Yarrawonga (Vic.) in mid-August.

Surveys are being made for another storage dam of 2,000,000 acre feet capacity on the Goulburn River in the vicinity of the Eildon Weir. This new storage would make the Eildon Weir look like a footstool and would be larger than the Hume dam.

Mr. L. R. East, chairman State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, said that the work of surveying, planning, etc., would take two years before any constructional work was done, and it might take ten years before any crops were harvested.

The conference dealt with Murray Development from a Commonwealth viewpoint, and asked the Federal Government to set up a Board of Enquiry into possible developments on a 50-year basis—irrigation, suitability of lands, capital investment, soil preservation, afforestation, transport, industries, social and cultural amenities.

Red Cross supplies patients in hospital and convalescent depots with cigarettes or tobacco each week. These men in a tented ward in New Guinea are receiving their weekly issue from the Red Cross Representative.

IN FOUR YEARS OF WAR

The Expenditure of

THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

HAS BEEN

£3,850,106

1940	£175,553
1941	£599,376
1942	£1,130,103
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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

At a meeting of the S.Aust. Dried Fruits Board on 8th Sept., the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss) reported that in connection with the visit to Adelaide of the U.K. Food Mission, a display of the State's primary products would be staged at the Brookman Hall, School of Mines on the 19th Sept.: it was agreed that the Board co-operate in making available a dried fruits display.

Regarding the States Boards' proportion of the costs of inspection, it was agreed to approve of the case prepared by the Chairman of the Consultative Committee (Mr. Parker J. Moloney) for submission to the Minister of Commerce (Hon. W. J. Scully).

Correspondence passing between the Board, the Consultative Committee and the Food Control Department in regard to the releasing for civilian consumption lower grades of dried tree fruits was received, and it was noted that the Board had recommended that the release for the civilian trade of certain types of dried Pears was not desirable.

In regard to the use of Murray waters, which had been the subject of a conference held recently at Yarrawonga (Vic.), the Secretary was directed to make enquiries concerning the functions of any authorities which had been set up during recent years to control further plantings of areas for the production of dried vine fruits.

Reports of the Board's Investigation Officer (Inspector Noblet), on his visits to country areas were considered, the present pack position was examined.

DRIED APPLES IN N.Z.

Progress at Hastings and Motueka.

CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS in the dehydration of Apples was reported at the recent Conference of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation by Mr. L. Tiller (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) who said that up to July 31st, 1944, 60,000 bushels of Apples had been dried at Hastings and Motueka, and another 46,000 cases were waiting to be dealt with. Next season it was proposed to treat 250,000 cases.

Mr. Tiller states that dehydration has come to stay, 1 lb. of the dried product was equal to 8 to 10 lbs. of the fresh fruit. Dried Apples could be produced for 2/6 lb., and would be attractive to the public when fresh fruit was 4d. to 6d. per lb.

PORT HUON CO-OPERATIVE.

The 27th annual meeting of the Port Huon Co-operative Fruitgrowers' Association was held at Hobart on August 28.

The annual report for the year ended June 30, 1944, stated that the items: land, buildings, plant and machinery, now stood at £77,487, although nearly £25,000 had been written off as depreciation. Due mainly to defence contracts, the pulp trading account reached the record figure of £231,633 (an increase of £69,972 over the previous year). The nett profit for year was £5,491, which, together with balance brought forward, showed a credit of £14,495, from which a dividend of 7½ per cent. was recommended, absorbing £2,374.

The subsidiary company (Port Huon Fruit Juices Pty. Ltd.) was engaged almost solely on the manufacture of products for the Forces. The increased demand for Port Huon syrups was very encouraging.

The Directors are Messrs. B. J. Pearsall (chairman), A. Dickson, F. Cole, J. Combes, P. A. Feil, C. W. Frost, M.H.R., L. R. Shield, J. R. Wellington and W. E. Britcliffe, the general manager is Mr. J. P. Piggott, and the Secretary, Mr. A. R. Johnston.

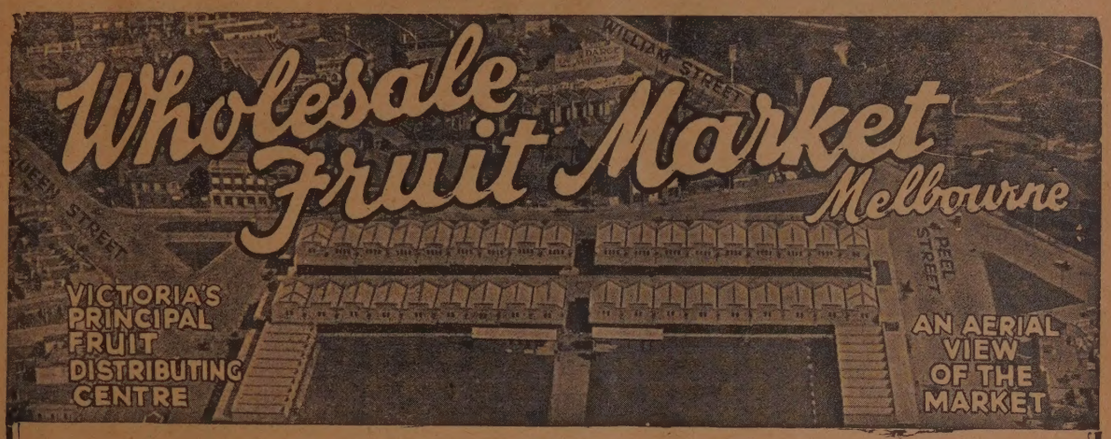
N.S.W. CHAMBER OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES.

At a meeting of the Council of the Chamber held on September 5, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year—President Mr. H. P. Woodward, M.L.A. Deputy Pres.: Mr. E. Cooke. Vice-Pres.: Messrs. J. J. Mason and C. R. Walker (retiring President). Hon. Treas.: Mr. E. M. Wade.

Before vacating the chair, Mr. C. R. Walker, who has been President of the Chamber for the past three years thanked Councillors and the General Secretary for the assistance extended to him during his term of office.

Mr. W. Musgrove and Mr. L. J. Jenkins referred in eulogistic terms to the excellent work done for the industry and the Chamber by Mr. Walker.

It was generally agreed that the last three years had been most arduous and had called for great sacrifice on the part of the President, who had given a great deal of time to conferences and meetings, and was always courteous and helpful when approached on any industry matter.



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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (27/9/44).

The State Marketing Board reports as follows:—There was a good inquiry for choice Apples, and both Delicious and Granny Smith from cool stores in inland centres of this State realised up to the ceiling rate of 23/- per bushel. Only limited quantities of these two varieties were available. A few local Democrats were on offer, and sales were made up to 18/- per case. Western Australian Granny Smiths sold well at the unchanged rate of 18/- to 21/-. Many packs of Tasmanian Granny Smiths opened up in a faulty condition, and some lines were sold at very low prices. Further consignments of Victorian Jonathans were available, and best sizes of choice fruit sold to 23/-, but much lower prices ruled for small and over-mature lines. The quality of the interstate Rome Beauties show a good deal of variation, and, while the best lots sold up to 23/-, as low as 5/- per bushel was accepted for over-ripe lots. Some Victorian Granny Smith and Delicious were obtainable.

Little difficulty was experienced in disposing of Pears. Small consignments of local Packham's Triumph were received at tri-weekly intervals, and clearances were promptly effected, mainly at the maximum of 24/- per case, with the exception of a few small sizes. Reduced supplies were received from Victoria, comprising Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Josephine and a few Winter Nelis.

Ruling rates were:—

Fruit.

Apples: N.S.W.—Granny Smith 18/- to 23/-, very small sizes from 12/-, Delicious 23/-, very small sizes lower, Democrat 12/- to 17/-; Victorian—Jonathan 10/- to 23/-; Tasmanian—Granny Smith 15/- to 21/-, faulty lines from 5/-, Democrat 10/- to 11/-; West Australian—Granny Smith 18/- to 21/-; Interstate—Rome Beauty 8/- to 18/-, few to 23/-. **Pears:** N.S.W.—Packham's Triumph 24/- (nominal); Victorian — Packham's Triumph 24/-, very small sizes lower, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and Josephine 24/-. **Oranges:** Navel—Coastal and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area 12/- to 18/-; **Valencia**—Coastal 10/- to 21/-. **Lemons:** Coastal 10/- to 14/-. **Mandarins:** N.S.W.—5/- to 25/-, few higher, per bushel case. **Bananas:** All sizes—f.a.q., 7d. per lb., inferior lower (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). **Passionfruit:** 18/- to 30/-, few higher, per half-case. **Papaws:** 10/- to 20/-, specials to 25/. **Pineapples:** 18/- to 25/-, inferior lower, per tropical case.

Vegetables.

Current quotations were:—

Peas: 10/- to 14/-, occasional early sales extra choice to 16/-, inferior from 5/-. Beans: Choice 25/-, medium grades from 10/-, inferior from 2/-, some unsaleable, per bushel. Cabbages: 2/- to 6/-, choice to 8/-. Cauliflowers: 6/- to 24/-, few specials 26/- per dozen. Lettuce: 8/- to 16/- per case. Carrots (bagged): 8/- to 16/-, choice washed 20/-, few specials 25/-, inferior lower, per cwt. Parsnips: 4/- to 7/- per dozen bunches, 16/- to 28/- per cwt. White Turnips: 1/6 to 2/6. Rhubarb: 4/- to 8/-. Spinach: 3/- to 5/-. Celery (local) 6/- to 15/-, (South Australian to 26/- per crate). Eschalots: 15/-. Asparagus: 24/- to 36/-. Mint: 3/-. Parsley: 12/- to 18/-. Radishes: 1/6 to 2/6. Beetroot: 2/- to 5/- per dozen bunches (10/- to 14/, few higher, inferior lower, per cwt.). Tomatoes (glasshouse) 1st quality 24/-, (North Coast) 20/- to 24/-, inferior lower, (Queensland) 16/- to 24/-, inferior lower, repacked—Queensland 1st quality, 24/- per half-case. Potatoes: 1st grade 7/10½. Swedes: 5/- to 8/-, few specials to 12/-, inferior lower. Pumpkins: 20/- to 22/6. Sweet Potatoes: 16/-, inferior lower, per cwt. Cucumbers: Green 10/- to 16/- per half-case.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (2/10/44).

Vegetables.

Asparagus: 8/- to 12/- per 100. Beans, Broad: 6/- to 14/- 50 lb.; do., kidney, 8d. to 1/3 per lb., max. 1/4 lb. Beetroot 10d. to 1/- doz., max. 17/- cwt. Beet, Silver: 2/6 to 4/- doz. bunches. Cabbages: 4/- to 9/- doz. Carrots: 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- cwt. with tops. Cauliflowers: 4/- to 10/- doz., few to 12/-. Celery: 4/- to 8/- doz., do. Adelaide 14/- to 24/ double case. Garlic: 1/6 to 1/9 lb. Horseradish: 1/- to 1/3 bundle. Lettuce: 6/- to 15/- case, few to 16/-. Mint: 2/6 to 3/6 doz. bunches. Melons, citron, 12/- to 18/- doz. Onions, green 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches. Silver 1/6 to 2/6 doz. bunches. Parsley: 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches. Parsnips: 3/6 to 6/- doz. bunches, max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- cwt. with tops. Peas: 25/- to 40/- 50 lb. (max.). Potatoes: 10/- to 10/6 bag. Pumpkins. 12/- to 36/- doz., 10/- to 15/- bag. Radish: 1/6 to 2/- doz. bunches. Rhubarb: 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches. Savoys: 4/- to 8/- doz. Spinach: 4/- to 6/- dozen bunches. Tomatoes: 18/- to 20/- half-case. Turnips: 2/- to 3/- dozen bunches, do., Swede, 7/- to 14/- bag; do., 3/- to 6/- doz. bunches.

Fruit.

Bushel cases unless stated.—**Apples,** eating: 12/- to 20/-, few Delicious to 21/-, max. 23/-, cooking 10/- to 16/-; Granny Smith to 18/-. **Oranges,** Navel: 16/- to 18/6 (max.); Valencias 18/- to 21/6 (max.), commons 16/- to 18/6 (max.). **Lemons:** 14/- to 20/- (max.). **Mandarins:** 16/- to 28/-, few to 30/- (max.). **Pears,** Dessert: Packham 20/- to 25/-, max. 26/-; do., culinary 12/- to 20/-. **Papaws:** 22/- to 30/- double case. **Bananas,** green: 6½d. to 6¾d. lb. (max.), ripe to 7½d. lb. (max.). **Pineapples:** 15/- to 24/-, few to 26/- double case, max. 5½d. lb. **Passionfruit:** 25/- to 40/- half-case.

IMPORTATION OF PEAR PIPS.

Needless Prohibition Adversely Affects Nurserymen and Fruitgrowers.

THE SERIOUS POSITION which had arisen because of the prohibition of the importation of Pear pips from U.S.A. and other countries was referred to by Mr. G. W. Peart, President Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association at the recent annual meeting of the Association.

He had had a number of interviews with various departments, including Food Control, War Organisation of Industry and Post-War Reconstruction, all of whom admitted the seriousness of the position and agreed that some action should be taken, but on interviewing the Department of Import Procurement they had informed him that as nurserymen did not import Pear pips from the U.S.A. in the base year 1938-39, a permit could not be granted for their importation at the present time. He was pursuing the matter further, but even if permission to import were granted now, it would be too late for next season. He had received a sympathetic hearing from the Federal Department of Agriculture recently, and he was hopeful that something would be done in the matter in the near future.

Appreciation was expressed for the amount of time that had been put into this matter by the President in endeavouring to educate the Government Departments in connection with this matter, and it was decided to empower the President to take any action deemed necessary.

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Are now paying a Bonus of 33⅓% on all Commissions charged to regular clients of the Fruit & Vegetable Section for year ending Sept., 1943

Send Your Consignments TO US

MELBOURNE & SYDNEY.

New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation

Annual Conference Endorses Controlled Marketing.

AT the annual conference of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation, held at Wellington in August, Mr. T. C. Brash presided over a full attendance of delegates from all parts of the Dominion.

Organised Marketing.

Mr. F. E. Clark moved that the marketing of the 1945 pip fruit crop be conducted on similar lines to that of 1944, provided that suitable minimum guarantees are provided. Mr. K. Warren seconded.

There was opposition from the Canterbury district.—Mr. N. Goldsbury said that Canterbury growers were being robbed: they could get 10/- to 12/- per case on the open market, but all they received from the controlled scheme was 6/6, the remainder being used to subsidise other growers.

There was a vigorous discussion, in which delegates pointed out that whereas Canterbury had a grievance, because under normal conditions they could market their own crop at a profit, the present system was devised as a wartime means to stabilise the industry as a whole. Growers should look forward to peace time conditions when organised co-operative marketing would be essential.

In closing the debate, Mr. Clark said that all districts except Canterbury were satisfied with the principle of the present marketing scheme. On a free market Canterbury might benefit, but the big producing districts—particularly Nelson and Hawke's Bay—would suffer.

The resolution was carried.

Marketing Council's Report.

Mr. R. P. Fraser, Chairman N.Z. Fruit Marketing Council, presented the annual report. He stated that immediately after the conclusion of the negotiations with the Government, the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation submitted a panel of six names from which the Minister selected four as grower representatives. The Council now consisted of Mr. R. P. Fraser (Chairman), Acting Director Internal Marketing Division, Mr. W. Benzies (Deputy Chairman), Executive Officer, Apple and Pear Section, I.M.D., Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of Horticulture, Hon. R. Eddy, M.L.C., Consumers' representative; Messrs. A. B. Congdon, A. C. Ward, L. B. Robinson, and J. Hainsworth, growers' representatives.

The Council is autonomous in determining marketing policy: it exercises its powers and financial arrangements through the I.M.D. There are committees in the principal fruitgrowing districts.

The Council held its first meeting in February, 1944. Previously the Internal Marketing Division had issued instructions: the Council confirmed these. It endorsed the principle of packing premiums and deductions, early market bonus, premiums for orchard stored fruit, and for private cool stores; it also endorsed last year's advance of 4/8 on all varieties in groups 1, 2 and 3 for Fancy and commercial grades. For Apples in Group 4 the advance was 3/8 per case; for minimum grade the price was 6d. below commercial.

Private Sales.

The permission for growers to supply direct to consumers was having serious repercussions. It was not possible to develop a scheme for the general good, where this was undermined by individual trade.

Distribution System.

The general system, after receiving crop estimates, was to classify fruit into that for immediate sale, orchard storage, and cool storage. Fruit was sold through brokers in accordance with market requirements throughout the Dominion.

Market fluctuations had thus been largely ironed out, ensuring a stability not known in pre-war days.

1944 Crops.

This season's crop was 2,579,000 cases, as compared with 2,260,000 in 1943. After meeting needs of Services, the quantity was 1,820,000 bushels, as compared with 1,734,000 in 1943. Sales were made to schools at 7/6 per bushel (5/- in 1943).

Finance.

The Council operates through the I.M.D., i.e., the Government pays administrative costs and advances to growers, and is reimbursed by market proceeds. The subsidy of £169,000 includes £25,000 to assist growers whose orchards were rendered uneconomic through the operation of the marketing scheme.

Growers are paid advances of 4/8 and 3/8, plus a further payment in July—this payment was expected to fulfil the overall guarantee of 6/- per case to the industry. Subsequent payments would depend on market realisations.

Retail Prices.

The stabilisation system aimed to regulate retail prices. A wholesale price not lower than 5/6, and not higher than 6/5 meant that the retail price was 7/9, and sales at 3d. per lb.

The Council was successful in arranging for the elimination of the brokers' charge of 1d. per case for receiving and delivery. This was not popular with brokers, but the Council deemed it fair because brokers were now saved much work.

Post-War Plan.

In conclusion, the report states that the present system of a subsidised marketing system is limited to wartime conditions, what will replace the Council has not received consideration, but the aim is to build up something of service as a foundation for post-war construction.

Conference Discussions.

A resolution was carried recommending that in distributing any surplus over the guarantee, priority be given to payments to cover increased wage costs; further, that the first 10¾d. over the 6/- should be distributed over all grades, thus to ensure to growers the cost of production.

The subjects dealt with included fruit cases, grading and various details connected with the industry. A resolution favouring separate pools for Apples and Pears was lost.

Mr. T. C. Brash was re-elected President, making his term of office 20 years. The Vice-President is Mr. R. A. Kinnaird.

ROOTSTOCKS FOR THE MORELLO CHERRY.

A plea is made for the Bird Cherry as a rootstock for the Morello in view of its hardiness. Given equally good soil conditions it induces fruiting as early as P. Mahaleb and in greater abundance. The advantage of P. mahaleb lies in its great adaptability to soil conditions, its only failures being on moist, ill-drained or excessively rich soils.—F. Hilkenbaumer, Forschungsdienst.

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Do you ever have a real turn-out of those miscellaneous drawers, cupboards, or the old tool-shed?

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So remember next time you're clearing up, please check up on this list and send the goods to the Red Cross.

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Parson: "Well, Mrs. Slosher, so your poor husband has joined the Great Majority?"

Mrs. Slosher: "Oh, don't say that, Parson, I'm sure he was not as bad as all that."

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the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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Correspondence is invited by the Association.

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Science in Horticulture

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH into horticultural problems is being conducted in many parts of the world. Summaries of research bulletins are published by the Imperial Bureau of Horticulture, E. Malling, Eng., in the "Horticultural Abstracts." Here are some of them:

Three-year Study of Preharvest Sprays in Washington.

ALPHA-NAPHTHALENACETIC acid sprays at a concentration of 10 parts per million have effectively reduced the preharvest fruit drop of Delicious, Winesap and McIntosh Apples and Bosc and Bartlett Pears. Reducing the concentration of alpha-naphthalenacetic acid to 6 and 3 parts per million has reduced the effectiveness of the spray. The addition of spreaders and oil have not greatly increased the effectiveness of the growth chemical spray. Lime applied with alpha-naphthaleneacetic acid sprays has reduced the effectiveness, whereas the addition of zinc sulphate may have increased the effectiveness.

Applications during the warm part of the day have more effectively reduced drop than have applications made in early morning or in late evening, when the temperatures were relatively low. Spraying of water on trees two hours following spray of alpha-naphthalenacetic acid material reduced the effectiveness of the spray, whereas water sprays after 8 and 24 hours had no effect.

Little benefit was obtained from successive applications of the growth chemical sprays.

The period of effectiveness of any one application may vary from 11 to 12 days with McIntosh and 21 to 28 days with the Delicious and Winesap. The period of effectiveness tends to be longer when cool weather follows the spray than when warm weather prevails. Observations have indicated that alpha-naphthalenacetic acid sprays do not affect the fruit maturity at the time of harvest or rate of ripening, either before the fruit is harvested, or in storage so long as the fruit is picked at the proper stage of maturity. (Authors' summary.)—E. L. Overholser, F. L. Overley and D. F. Allmendinger, Amer. Soc. Hort. Science.

The Influence of Some Horticultural Practices on Bitter Pit in Okanagan-grown Apples.

SERIOUS LOSSES from bitter pit having been reported for Okanagan grown Cox's Orange, Northern Spy and Newtown Apples, the disorder was studied for several years at the Dominion Experimental Station, Summerland, B.C.

Environmental conditions in the whole area seem to be responsible for the trouble in the first two varieties mentioned, losses amounting annually to 20 per cent. of the whole crop and to 55 per cent. in some places, whereas with Newtown losses were about 5 per cent., varying greatly from orchard to orchard and season to season.

The most interesting result reported is the observation that Apples from trees carrying less than a third of a full crop are liable to develop bitter pit, regardless of harvesting and storage method. The author therefore strongly recommends the segregation of fruit from light and heavy crop trees in order to avoid repacking at a later stage.

Although Apples from light crop trees mature earlier than those from normal trees, the authors advise that they should be picked, if possible, after the main crop, since the longer they are left hanging on the trees the less susceptible do they become to bitter pit, brown core and scald.

Losses from heavy cropping trees could be considerably reduced by picking at the proper maturity, as indicated by maturity tests, and to a lesser extent by immediate storage at 32 deg. F. After two months' storage symptoms of bitter pit became externally visible. The development of the disorder in the Newtown variety appeared to be connected with seasonable weather conditions since after great susceptibility in the years 1937-40 losses were negligible in 1941 and 42. The literature bearing on the subject is reviewed. — J. E. Britton, D. V. Fisher and R. C. Palmer, "Scientific Agriculture."

Orchard Spray Poisoning of the Honey Bee.

NO CASES OF POISONING with nicotine, nicotine sulphate, lime-sulphur or copper have been noted. Bees die from arsenic collected as spray or from contaminated pollen—there is no evidence of poisoned nectar being collected. Weakening of the colony may result. It is suggested that spray programmes should be so arranged that arsenic is used only in conjunction with lime-sulphur after petal fall. The lime-sulphur acts as a repellant. Provision of water within the hive by means of frame feeders is also helpful. (In the discussion, evidence was produced by M. H. Moore that under certain conditions bees were likely to overcome their repugnance to lime-sulphur sprayed blossom as soon as the smell had somewhat abated.) — G. A. Carter.

Hail Damaged Vines.

DISCUSSING THE HAIL DAMAGE caused to vines in certain parts of Switzerland by a heavy storm in June the author states that rockets proved useless because they exploded much below the clouds. The following steps should be taken immediately after a hail storm early in the growing season to mitigate the damage: (1) thorough spraying to control downy mildew; (2) the plant should be so treated that the vine and the remaining first buds are soon covered with healthy foliage; (3) top dressing of severely damaged but still cropping vines with 4-5 kg. calcium nitrate of 3 kg. ammonium sulphate per 100 m2 immediately after the storm; (4) the coagulated soil should be cultivated or ploughed as soon as possible; (5) severe pruning in a case of total damage must be carried out at once to obtain few but strong shoots producing good wood for next year's pruning. Intensive mildew control is important.—E. Peyer (German).

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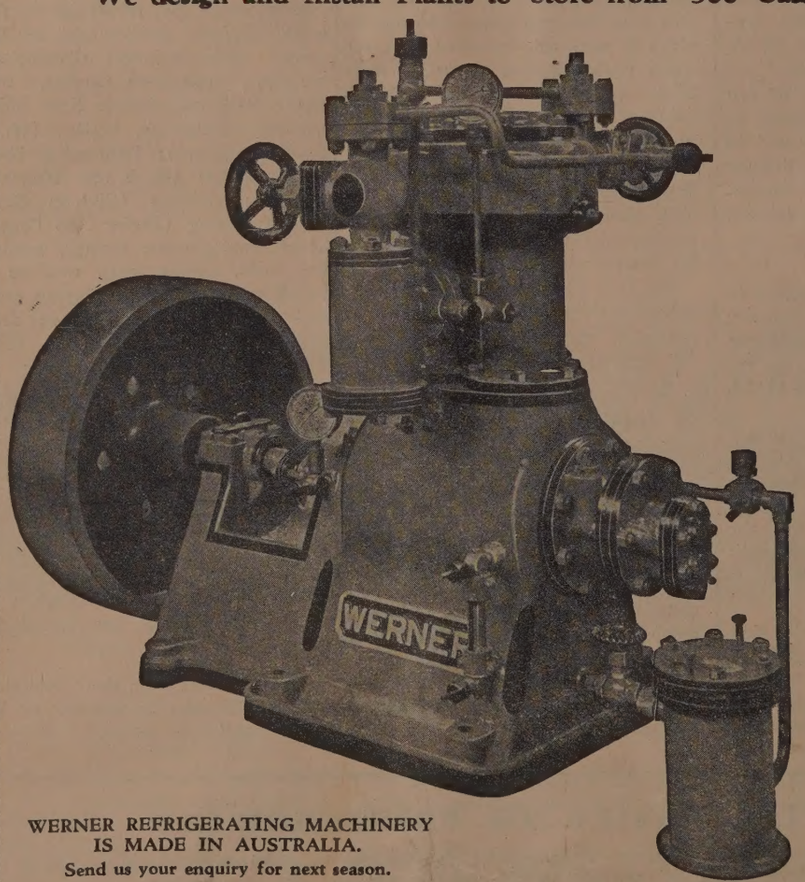

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